IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3, 4, 5 and 37 without prejudice.

Kindly amend the following claims 1, 24, 29, 52, 54, 57, 62, 64 and 68:

1. (Amended) A pharmacologically active peptide conjugate having a reduced tendency towards enzymatic cleavage comprising X and Z,

wherein X is a pharmacologically active heteropolymeric peptide sequence, and

wherein Z is a stabilising peptide sequence, of 4-20 amino acid units covalently bonded by its N terminus to the C terminus end of X wherein each amino acid unit in said stabilising peptide sequence, Z is selected from the group consisting of Ala, Leu, Ser, Thr, Tyr, Asn, Gln, Asp, Glu, Lys, Arg, His, Met, Orn, and amino acid units of the general formula I

$$-NH-C(R^1)(R^2)-C(=O)- \qquad (I)$$

wherein R^1 and R^2 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, phenyl, and phenyl-methyl, wherein C_{1-6}-alkyl is optionally substituted with from one to three substituents selected from halogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, nitro, sulfono, and carboxy, and phenyl and phenyl-methyl is optionally substituted with from one to three substituents selected from C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, nitro, sulfono, and carboxy, or R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, or cycloheptyl ring; and

wherein the ratio between the half-life of said peptide conjugate and the half-life of the corresponding pharmacologically active peptide sequence, X, when treated with carboxypeptidase A or leucine aminopeptidase in about 50 mM phosphate buffer solution at

about pH 7.4 at about 37°C or in serum or plasma is at least about 2; or a salt thereof, wherein Z comprises at least two identical amino acid units.

24. (Amended) The peptide conjugate according to claim 1 or 10, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of enkephalin, Leu-enkephalin, Met-enkephalin, angioten-sin I, angioten-sin II, vasopressin, endothelin, vasoactive intestinal peptide, neurotensin, endorphins, insulin, gramicidin, para-celsin, delta-sleep inducing peptide, gonadotropin-Releasing hormone, human parathyroid hormone (1-34), EMP-1, Atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP, ANF), human brain natriuretic peptide (hBNP), cecropin, kinetensin, neurophysins, elafin, guamerin, atriopeptin I, atriopeptin II, atriopeptin III, deltorphin I, deltorphin II, vasotocin, bradykinin, dynorphin, dynorphin A, dynorphin B, growth hormone release factor, growth hormone, growth hormone releasing peptide, oxytocin, calcitonin, calcitonin gene-related peptide, calcitonin gene-related peptide II, growth hormone releasing peptide, tachykinin, adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH), brain natriuretic polypeptide, cholecystokinin, corticotropin releasing factor, diazepam binding inhibitor fragment, FMRF-amide, galanin, gastric releasing polypeptide, gastric inhibitory polypeptide, gastrin, gastrin releasing peptide, glucagon, glucagon-like peptide-1, glucagon-like peptide-2, LHRH, melanin concentrating hormone, melanocyte stimulating hormone (MSH), alpha-MSH, morphine modulating peptides, motilin, neurokinin A, neurokinin B, neuromedin B, neuromedin C, neuromedin K, neuromedin N, neuromedin U, neuropeptide K, neuropeptide Y, pituitary adenylate cyclase activating polypeptide (PACAP), pancreatic polypeptide, peptide YY, peptide histidine-methionine amide (PHM), secretin, somatostatin, substance K, thyrotropin-releasing hormone (TRH), kyotorphin, melanostatin (MIF-1), thrombopoeitin analogs, in particular AF 12505 (Ile-Glu-Gly-Pro-Thr-Leu-Arg-Gln-Trp-Leu-Ala-Ala-Arg-Ala) (SEQ ID NO. 14), insulin-like growth factor I (57-70) (Ala-Leu-Leu-Glu-Thr-Tyr-Cys-Ala-Thr-Pro-Ala-Lys-Ser-Glu) (SEQ ID NO. 15), insulin-like growth factor I (30-41) (Gly-Tyr-Gly-Ser-Ser-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ala-Pro-Gln-Thr) (SEQ ID NO. 16), insulin-like growth factor I (24-41)(Tyr-Phe-Asn-Lys-Pro-Thr-Gly-Tyr-Gly-Ser-Ser-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ala-Pro-Gln-Thr) (SEQ ID NO. 17) , insulin-like growth factor II (33-40) (Ser-Arg-Val-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ser-Arg) (SEQ ID NO. 18), insulin-like growth factor II (33-40) (Tyr-Ser-Arg-Val-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ser-Arg) (SEQ ID NO. 19), insulin-like growth factor II (69-84) (Asp-Val-Ser-Thr-Pro-Pro-Thr-Val-Leu-Pro-Asp-Asn-Phe-Pro- Arg-

Tyr) (SEQ ID NO. 20), growth hormone (GH)-releasing peptide-6 (GHRP-6) (His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Lys-NH2) (SEQ ID NO. 21), beta-Interleukin I (163-171) (Val-Gln-Gly-Glu-Glu-Ser-Asn-Asp-Lys) (SEQ ID NO. 22), beta-Interleukin II (44-56) (Ile-Leu-Asn-Gly-Ile-Asn-Asn-Tyr-Lys-Asn-Pro-Lys-Leu) (SEQ ID NO. 23), Interleukin II (60-70) (Leu-Thr-Phe-Lys-Phe-Tyr-Met-Pro-Lys-Lys-Ala) (SEQ ID NO. 24), exendin-4 (GLP-1 analog) (His-Gly-Glu-Gly-Thr-Phe-Thr-Ser-Asp-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gln-Met-Glu-Glu-Glu-Ala-Val-Arg-Leu-Phe-Ile-Glu-Trp-Leu-Lys-Asn-Gly-Gly-Pro-Ser-Ser-Gly-Ala-Pro-Pro-Pro-Ser-NH2) (SEQ ID NO. 25), exendin-3 (GLP-1 analog) (His-Ser-Asp-Gly-Thr-Phe-Thr-Ser-Asp-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gln-Met-Glu-Glu-Glu-Ala-Val-Arg-Leu-Phe-Ile-Glu-Trp-Leu-Lys-Asn-Gly-Gly-Pro-Ser-Ser-Gly-Ala-Pro-Pro-Pro-Ser) (SEQ ID NO. 26), epidermal growth factor (20-31) Cys(Acm)-Met-His-Ile-Glu-Ser-Leu-Asp-Ser-Tyr-Thr-Cys(Acm) (SEQ ID NO. 27), bivalirudin (Hirulog) (D-Phe-Pro-Arg-Pro-(Gly)4-Asn-Gly-Asp-Phe-Glu-Glu-Ile-Pro-Glu-Glu-Tyr-Leu) (SEQ ID NO. 28), hirulog-1 D-Phe-Pro-Arg-Pro-(Gly)4-Asn-Gly-Asp-Phe-Glu-Glu-Ile-Pro-Glu-Tyr-Leu (SEQ ID NO. 29), C-type natriuretic peptide (1-53) (CNP) (Asp-Leu-Arg-Val-Asp-Thr-Lys-Ser-Arg-Ala-Ala-Trp-Ala-Arg-Leu-Leu-Gln-Glu-His-Pro-Asn-Ala-Arg-Lys-Tyr-Lys-Gly-Ala-Asn-Lys-Lys-Gly-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gly-Cys-Phe-Gly-Leu-Lys-Leu-Asp-Arg-Ile-Gly-Ser-Met-Ser-Gly-Leu-Gly-Cys; Disulfide bridge: Cys37-Cys53) (SEQ ID NO. 30), "Mini ANP" (Met-Cys-His-cyclohexylAla-Gly-Gly-Arg-Met-Asp-Arg-Ile-Ser-Cys-Tyr-Arg, disulfide bridge cys2-cys13) (SEQ ID NO. 31), Melanotan-II (also known as MT-II, alpha-MSH4-10-NH2, or Ac-Nle4-Asp5-His6-D-Phe7-Arg8-Trp9-Lys10) (SEQ ID NO. 32), thymosin alpha1 (TA1) (Ac-Ser-Asp-Ala-Ala-Val-Asp-Thr-Ser-Ser-Glu-Ile-Thr-Thr-Lys-Asp-Leu-Lys-Glu-Lys-Lys-Glu-Val-Val-Glu-Glu-Ala-Glu-Asn) (SEQ ID NO. 33), ornipressin (also known as 8-ornithine-vasopressin, (POR-8), vasopressin), Cys-Phe-Ile-Gln-Asn-Cys-Pro-Orn-Gly-NH2, Disulfide bridge: Cys1-Cys6) (SEQ ID NO. 34), octreotide (201-995) (DPhe-Cys-Phe-DTrp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-ol; disulfide bridge: Cys2-Cys7) (SEQ ID NO. 35), eptifibatide (INTEGRILIN), calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) (Ala-Cys-Asp-Thr-Ala-Thr-Cys-Val-Thr-His-Arg-Leu-Ala-Gly-Leu-Leu-Ser-Arg-Ser-Gly-Gly-Val-Val-Lys-Asn-Asn-Phe-Val-Pro-Thr-Asn-Val-Gly-Ser-Lys-Ala-Phe-NH_2; Disulfide bridge: Cys2-Cys7) (SEQ ID NO. 36), endomorphin-1 Tyr-Pro-Trp-Phe-NH2 (SEQ ID NO. 37); endomorphin-2 Tyr-Pro-Phe-Phe-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO. 38), nociceptin (also known as Orphanin FQ, Phe-Gly-Gly-Phe-Thr-Gly-Ala-Arg-Lys-Ser-Ala-Arg-Lys-Leu-Ala-Asn-Gln) (SEQ ID NO. 39),

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angiotensinogen (1-13) (Asp-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Phe-His-Leu-Val-Ile-His) (SEQ ID NO. 40), adrenomodullin (1-12) (Tyr-Arg-Gln-Ser-Met-Asn-Asn-Phe-Gln-Gly-Leu-Arg) (SEQ ID NO. 41), antiarrhytmic peptide (AAP) (Gly-Pro-Hyp-Gly-Ala-Gly) (SEQ ID NO. 42), Antagonist G (Arg-DTrp-(nMe)Phe-DTrp-Leu-Met-NH_2), indolicidin (Ile-Leu-Pro-Trp-Lys-Trp-Pro-Trp-Trp-Pro-Trp-Arg-Arg-NH_2) (SEQ ID NO. 43), osteocalcin (37-49) (Gly-Phe-Gln-Glu-Ala-Tyr-Arg-Arg-Phe-Tyr-Gly-Pro-Val) (SEQ ID NO. 44), cortistatin 29 (1-13) (Glp)-Glu-Arg-Pro-Pro-Leu-Gln-Gln-Pro-Pro-His-Arg-Asp) (SEQ ID NO. 45), cortistatin 14 Pro-Cys-Lys-Asn-Phe-Phe-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Ser-Ser-Cys-Lys; Disulfide bridge: Cys2-Cys13 (SEQ ID NO. 46), PD-145065 (Ac-D-Bhg-Leu-Asp-Ile-Ile-Trp) (SEQ ID NO. 47), PD-142893 (Ac-D-Dip-Leu-Asp-Ile-Ile-Trp) (SEQ ID NO. 48), fibrinogen binding inhibitor peptide (His-His-Leu-Gly-Gly-Ala-Lys-Gln-Ala-Gly-Asp-Val) (SEQ ID NO. 49), leptin (93-105) (Asn-Val-Ile-Gln-Ile-Ser-Asn-Asp-Leu-Glu-Asn-Leu-Arg) (SEQ ID NO. 50), GR 83074 (Boc-Arg-Ala-DTrp-Phe-DPro-Pro-Nle-NH_2) (SEQ ID NO. 51) Tyr-W-MIF-1 (Tyr-Pro-Trp-Gly-NH_2) (SEQ ID NO. 52), parathyroid hormone related peptide (107-111) (Thr-Arg-Ser-Ala-Trp) (SEQ ID NO. 53), angiotensinogen (1-14) Asp-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Phe-His-Leu-Val-Ile-His-Asn (SEQ ID NO. 54), Leupeptin (Ac-Leu-Leu-Arg-CHO), sandostatin and any modified analogue thereof.

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29. (Amended) A method for producing the peptide conjugate of claim 1, comprising

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a) introducing a nucleic acid sequence encoding said conjugate into a host cell;
b) culturing said host cell for a time and under conditions effective to produce said peptide conjugate, and
c) isolating said conjugate from the culture.

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52. (Amended) A pharmacologically active peptide conjugate having a reduced tendency towards enzymatic cleavage comprising X and Z,

wherein X is a pharmacologically active heteropolymeric peptide sequence, and

wherein Z is a stabilising peptide sequence of 4-20 amino acid units covalently bound by its N terminus to the C terminus end of X, wherein each amino acid unit in said stabilising peptide

sequence Z is selected from the group consisting of Ala, Leu, Ser, Thr, Tyr, Asn, Gln, Asp, Glu, Lys, Arg, His, Met, Orn, and amino acid units of the general formula I

$$-NH-C(R^1)(R^2)-C(=O)- \qquad (I)$$

wherein R^1 and R^2 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, phenyl, and phenyl-methyl, wherein C_{1-6}-alkyl is optionally substituted with from one to three substituents selected from halogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, nitro, sulfono, and carboxy, and phenyl and phenyl-methyl is optionally substituted with from one to three substituents selected from C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, nitro, sulfono, and carboxy, or R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, or cycloheptyl ring; and

wherein the ratio between the half-life of said peptide conjugate and the half-life of the corresponding pharmacologically active peptide sequence X, when treated with carboxypeptidase A or leucine aminopeptidase in about 50 mM phosphate buffer solution at about pH 7.4 at about 37°C or in serum or plasma is at least about 3; or a salt thereof, wherein Z comprises at least two identical amino acid units.

54. (Amended) A pharmacologically active peptide conjugate having a reduced tendency towards enzymatic cleavage comprising X and Z,

wherein X is a pharmacologically active heteropolymeric peptide sequence, and

wherein Z is a stabilising peptide sequence of 4-10 amino acid units covalently bound by its N terminus to the C terminus end of X, wherein each amino acid unit in said stabilising peptide sequence Z is selected from the group consisting of Ala, Leu, Ser, Thr, Tyr, Asn, Gln, Asp, Glu, Lys, Arg, His, Met, Orn, and amino acid units of the general formula I

$$-NH-C(R^1)(R^2)-C(=O)- \qquad (I)$$

wherein R^1 and R^2 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, phenyl, and phenyl-methyl, wherein C_{1-6}-alkyl is optionally substituted with from one to three substituents selected from halogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, nitro, sulfono, and carboxy, and phenyl and phenyl-methyl is optionally substituted with from one to three substituents selected from C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, nitro, sulfono, and carboxy, or R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, or cycloheptyl ring; and

wherein the ratio between the half-life of said peptide conjugate and the half-life of the corresponding pharmacologically active peptide sequence X, when treated with carboxypeptidase A or leucine aminopeptidase in about 50 mM phosphate buffer solution at about pH 7.4 at about 37°C or in serum or plasma is at least about 2; or a salt thereof, wherein Z comprises at least two identical amino acid units.

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57. (Amended) A pharmacologically active peptide conjugate having a reduced tendency towards enzymatic cleavage comprising X and Z,

wherein X is a pharmacologically active heteropolymeric peptide sequence, and

wherein Z is a stabilising peptide sequence of 4-20 amino acid units covalently bound by its N terminus to the C terminus end of X, wherein each amino acid unit in said stabilising peptide sequence Z is selected from the group consisting of Ala, Leu, Ser, Thr, Tyr, Asn, Gln, Asp, Glu, Lys, Arg, His, Met, Orn, and amino acid units of the general formula I

$$-NH-C(R^1)(R^2)-C(=O)- \qquad (I)$$

wherein R^1 and R^2 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, phenyl, and phenyl-methyl, wherein C_{1-6}-alkyl is optionally substituted with from one to three substituents selected from halogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, nitro, sulfono, and carboxy, and phenyl and

phenyl-methyl is optionally substituted with from one to three substituents selected from C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, nitro, sulfono, and carboxy, or R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, or cycloheptyl ring; and

wherein the ratio between the half-life of said peptide conjugate and the half-life of the corresponding pharmacologically active peptide sequence X, when treated with carboxypeptidase A or leucine aminopeptidase in about 50 mM phosphate buffer solution at about pH 7.4 at about 37°C or in serum or plasma is at least about 2; or a salt thereof, wherein Z comprises at least two or three Lys amino acid units.

62. (Amended) A pharmacologically active peptide conjugate having a reduced tendency towards enzymatic cleavage comprising X and Z,

wherein X is a pharmacologically active heteropolymeric peptide sequence, and

wherein Z is a stabilising peptide sequence of 4-20 amino acid units covalently bound by its N terminus to the C terminus end of X, wherein each amino acid unit in said stabilising peptide sequence Z is $(Dbu)_n$ or $(Dpr)_n$, wherein n is an integer in the range from about 4 to about 10; and

wherein the ratio between the half-life of said peptide conjugate and the half-life of the corresponding pharmacologically active peptide sequence X, when treated with carboxypeptidase A or leucine aminopeptidase in about 50 mM phosphate buffer solution at about pH 7.4 at about 37°C or in serum or plasma is at least about 2; or a salt thereof.

64. (Amended) A pharmacologically active peptide conjugate having a reduced tendency towards enzymatic cleavage comprising X and Z,

wherein X is a pharmacologically active heteropolymeric peptide sequence, and

wherein Z is a stabilising peptide sequence of 4-20 amino acid units covalently bound by its N terminus to the C terminus end of X, wherein each amino acid unit in said stabilising peptide sequence Z is selected from the group consisting of Ala, Leu, Ser, Thr, Tyr, Asn, Gln, Asp, Glu, Lys, Arg, His, Met, Orn, and amino acid units of the general formula I

$$-NH-C(R^1)(R^2)-C(=O)- \qquad (I)$$

wherein R^1 and R^2 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, phenyl, and phenyl-methyl, wherein C_{1-6}-alkyl is optionally substituted with from one to three substituents selected from halogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, nitro, sulfono, and carboxy, and phenyl and phenyl-methyl is optionally substituted with from one to three substituents selected from C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, nitro, sulfono, and carboxy, or R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, or cycloheptyl ring; and

wherein the ratio between the half-life of said peptide conjugate and the half-life of the corresponding pharmacologically active peptide sequence X, when treated with carboxypeptidase A or leucine aminopeptidase in about 50 mM phosphate buffer solution at about pH 7.4 at about 37°C or in serum or plasma is at least about 2; or a salt thereof, wherein said pharmacologically active peptide sequence (X) consists of at the most about 65 amino acid units, wherein Z comprises at least two identical amino acid units.

68. (Amended) A pharmacologically active peptide conjugate having a reduced tendency towards enzymatic cleavage comprising X and Z,

wherein X is a pharmacologically active heteropolymeric peptide sequence, and

wherein Z is a stabilising peptide sequence of 4-20 amino acid units covalently bound by its N terminus to the C terminus end of X, wherein each amino acid unit in said stabilising peptide

sequence Z is selected from the group consisting of Ala, Leu, Ser, Thr, Tyr, Asn, Gln, Asp, Glu, Lys, Arg, His, Met, Orn, and amino acid units of the general formula I

$$-NH-C(R^1)(R^2)-C(=O)- \qquad (I)$$

wherein R^1 and R^2 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, phenyl, and phenyl-methyl, wherein C_{1-6}-alkyl is optionally substituted with from one to three substituents selected from halogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, nitro, sulfono, and carboxy, and phenyl and phenyl-methyl is optionally substituted with from one to three substituents selected from C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, nitro, sulfono, and carboxy, or R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, or cycloheptyl ring; and

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wherein the ratio between the half-life of said peptide conjugate and the half-life of the corresponding pharmacologically active peptide sequence X, when treated with carboxypeptidase A or leucine aminopeptidase in about 50 mM phosphate buffer solution at about pH 7.4 at about 37°C or in serum or plasma is at least about 2; or a salt thereof,

wherein,

Z is Lys_p-Xaa_q or Xaa_p-Lys_q, wherein p and q are integers in the range from 1 to 14, with the proviso that p+q is in the range of 3-15, and each Xaa is independently selected from the group consisting of Ser, Thr, Tyr, Asn, Gln, Asp, Glu, Arg, His, Orn, 2,4-diaminobutanoic acid, 2,3-diaminopropanoic acid and Met,

and further wherein,

X is selected from the group consisting of AF 12505 (Ile-Glu-Gly-Pro-Thr-Leu-Arg-Gln-Trp-Leu-Ala-Ala-Arg-Ala) (SEQ ID NO. 14), insulin-like growth factor I (57-70) (Ala-Leu-Leu-Glu-Thr-Tyr-Cys-Ala-Thr-Pro-Ala-Lys-Ser-Glu) (SEQ ID NO. 15), insulin-like growth factor I (30-41) (Gly-Tyr-Gly-Ser-Ser-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ala-Pro-Gln-Thr) (SEQ ID NO. 16), insulin-like growth factor I (24-41)(Tyr-Phe-Asn-Lys-Pro-Thr-Gly-Tyr-Gly-Ser-Ser-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ala-Pro-Gln-Thr) (SEQ ID NO. 17), insulin-like growth factor II (33-40) (Ser-Arg-Val-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ser-Arg) (SEQ ID NO. 18), insulin-like growth factor II (33-40) (Tyr-Ser-Arg-Val-Ser-

Arg-Arg-Ser-Arg) (SEQ ID NO. 19), insulin-like growth factor II (69-84) (Asp-Val-Ser-Thr-Pro-Pro-Thr-Val-Leu-Pro-Asp-Asn-Phe-Pro- Arg-Tyr) (SEQ ID NO. 20), growth hormone (GH)-releasing peptide-6 (GHRP-6) (His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Lys-NH2) (SEQ ID NO. 21), beta-Interleukin I (163-171) (Val-Gln-Gly-Glu-Glu-Ser-Asn-Asp-Lys) (SEQ ID NO. 22), beta-Interleukin II (44-56) (Ile-Leu-Asn-Gly-Ile-Asn-Asn-Tyr-Lys-Asn-Pro-Lys-Leu) (SEQ ID NO. 23), Interleukin II (60-70) (Leu-Thr-Phe-Lys-Phe-Tyr-Met-Pro-Lys-Lys-Ala) (SEQ ID NO. 24), exendin-4 (GLP-1 analog) (His-Gly-Glu-Gly-Thr-Phe-Thr-Ser-Asp-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gln-Met-Glu-Glu-Glu-Ala-Val-Arg-Leu-Phe-Ile-Glu-Trp-Leu-Lys-Asn-Gly-Gly-Pro-Ser-Ser-Gly-Ala-Pro-Pro-Pro-Ser-NH2) (SEQ ID NO. 25), exendin-3 (GLP-1 analog) (His-Ser-Asp-Gly-Thr-Phe-Thr-Ser-Asp-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gln-Met-Glu-Glu-Glu-Ala-Val-Arg-Leu-Phe-Ile-Glu-Trp-Leu-Lys-Asn-Gly-Gly-Pro-Ser-Ser-Gly-Ala-Pro-Pro-Pro-Ser) (SEQ ID NO. 26), epidermal growth factor (20-31) Cys(Acm)-Met-His-Ile-Glu-Ser-Leu-Asp-Ser-Tyr-Thr-Cys(Acm) (SEQ ID NO. 27), bivalirudin (Hirulog) (D-Phe-Pro-Arg-Pro-(Gly)4-Asn-Gly-Asp-Phe-Glu-Glu-Ile-Pro-Glu-Glu-Tyr-Leu) (SEQ ID NO. 28), hirulog-1 D-Phe-Pro-Arg-Pro-(Gly)4-Asn-Gly-Asp-Phe-Glu-Glu-Ile-Pro-Glu-Tyr-Leu (SEQ ID NO. 29), C-type natriuretic peptide (1-53) (CNP) (Asp-Leu-Arg-Val-Asp-Thr-Lys-Ser-Arg-Ala-Ala-Trp-Ala-Arg-Leu-Leu-Gln-Glu-His-Pro-Asn-Ala-Arg-Lys-Tyr-Lys-Gly-Ala-Asn-Lys-Lys-Gly-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gly-Cys-Phe-Gly-Leu-Lys-Leu-Asp-Arg-Ile-Gly-Ser-Met-Ser-Gly-Leu-Gly-Cys; Disulfide bridge: Cys37-Cys53) (SEQ ID NO. 30), "Mini ANP" (Met-Cys-His-cyclohexylAla-Gly-Gly-Arg-Met-Asp-Arg-Ile-Ser-Cys-Tyr-Arg, disulfide bridge cys2-cys13) (SEQ ID NO. 31), Melanotan-II (MT-II, alpha-MSH4-10-NH2, or Ac-Nle4-Asp5-His6-D-Phe7-Arg8-Trp9-Lys10) (SEQ ID NO. 32), thymosin alpha1 (TA1) (Ac-Ser-Asp-Ala-Ala-Val-Asp-Thr-Ser-Ser-Glu-Ile-Thr-Thr-Lys-Asp-Leu-Lys-Glu-Lys-Lys-Glu-Val-Val-Glu-Glu-Ala-Glu-Asn) (SEQ ID NO. 33), Cys-Phe-Ile-Gln-Asn-Cys-Pro-Orn-Gly-NH2, Disulfide bridge: Cys1-Cys6) (SEQ ID NO. 34), octreotide (201-995) (DPhe-Cys-Phe-DTrp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-ol; disulfide bridge: Cys2-Cys7) (SEQ ID NO. 35), calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) (Ala-Cys-Asp-Thr-Ala-Thr-Cys-Val-Thr-His-Arg-Leu-Ala-Gly-Leu-Leu-Ser-Arg-Ser-Gly-Gly-Val-Val-Lys-Asn-Asn-Phe-Val-Pro-Thr-Asn-Val-Gly-Ser-Lys-Ala-Phe-NH_2; Disulfide bridge: Cys2-Cys7) (SEQ ID NO. 36), endomorphin-1 Tyr-Pro-Trp-Phe-NH2 (SEQ ID NO. 37); endomorphin-2 Tyr-Pro-Phe-Phe-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO. 38), nociceptin (also known as Orphanin FQ, Phe-Gly-Gly-Phe-Thr-Gly-Ala-Arg-Lys-Ser-Ala-Arg-Lys-Leu-Ala-Asn-Gln)

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(SEQ ID NO. 39), angiotensinogen (1-13) (Asp-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Phe-His-Leu-Val-Ile-His) (SEQ ID NO. 40), adrenomodullin (1-12) (Tyr-Arg-Gln-Ser-Met-Asn-Asn-Phe-Gln-Gly-Leu-Arg) (SEQ ID NO. 41), antiarrhytmic peptide (AAP) (Gly-Pro-Hyp-Gly-Ala-Gly) (SEQ ID NO. 42), Antagonist G (Arg-DTrp-(nMe)Phe-DTrp-Leu-Met-NH_2), indolicidin (Ile-Leu-Pro-Trp-Lys-Trp-Pro-Trp-Trp-Pro-Trp-Arg-Arg-NH_2) (SEQ ID NO. 43), osteocalcin (37-49) (Gly-Phe-Gln-Glu-Ala-Tyr-Arg-Arg-Phe-Tyr-Gly-Pro-Val) (SEQ ID NO. 44), cortistatin 29 (1-13) (Glp)-Glu-Arg-Pro-Pro-Leu-Gln-Gln-Pro-Pro-His-Arg-Asp) (SEQ ID NO. 45), cortistatin 14 Pro-Cys-Lys-Asn-Phe-Phe-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Ser-Ser-Cys-Lys; Disulfide bridge: Cys2-Cys13 (SEQ ID NO. 46), PD-145065 (Ac-D-Bhg-Leu-Asp-Ile-Ile-Trp) (SEQ ID NO. 47), PD-142893 (Ac-D-Dip-Leu-Asp-Ile-Ile-Trp) (SEQ ID NO. 48), fibrinogen binding inhibitor peptide (His-His-Leu-Gly-Gly-Ala-Lys-Gln-Ala-Gly-Asp-Val) (SEQ ID NO. 49), leptin (93-105) (Asn-Val-Ile-Gln-Ile-Ser-Asn-Asp-Leu-Glu-Asn-Leu-Arg) (SEQ ID NO. 50), GR 83074 (Boc-Arg-Ala-DTrp-Phe-DPro-Pro-Nle-NH_2) (SEQ ID NO. 51) Tyr-W-MIF-1 (Tyr-Pro-Trp-Gly-NH_2) (SEQ ID NO. 52), parathyroid hormone related peptide (107-111) (Thr-Arg-Ser-Ala-Trp) (SEQ ID NO. 53), angiotensinogen (1-14) Asp-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Phe-His-Leu-Val-Ile-His-Asn (SEQ ID NO. 54), Leupeptin (Ac-Leu-Leu-Arg-CHO); or a modified fragment thereof; and further wherein Z comprises at least two identical amino acid units.

Please add the following new claims 69-72.

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69. (New) A pharmacologically active peptide conjugate having a reduced tendency towards enzymatic cleavage comprising X and Z,

wherein X is a pharmacologically active heteropolymeric peptide sequence, and

wherein Z is a stabilising peptide sequence of 4-20 amino acid units covalently bonded to the N terminal end of X wherein each amino acid unit in said stabilising peptide sequence, Z, is selected from the group consisting of Ala, Leu, Ser, Thr, Tyr, Asn, Gln, Asp, Glu, Lys, Arg, His, Met, Orn, and amino acid units of the general formula I

$$-NH-C(R^1)(R^2)-C(=O)- \qquad (I)$$

wherein R^1 and R^2 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, phenyl, and phenyl-methyl, wherein C_{1-6}-alkyl is optionally substituted with from one to three substituents selected from halogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, nitro, sulfono, and carboxy, and phenyl and phenyl-methyl is optionally substituted with from one to three substituents selected from C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, nitro, sulfono, and carboxy, or R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, or cycloheptyl ring; and

wherein the ratio between the half-life of said peptide conjugate and the half-life of the corresponding pharmacologically active peptide sequence X, when treated with carboxypeptidase A or leucine aminopeptidase in about 50 mM phosphate buffer solution at about pH 7.4 at about 37°C or in serum or plasma is at least about 2; or a salt thereof, wherein Z comprises at least two identical amino acid units.

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70. (New) The peptide conjugate of any one of claims 1, 52, 54, 57, 62, 64, or 68, wherein Z is further defined by having a free acid, amide or ester group.

71. (New) The peptide conjugate of claim 69, wherein Z is further defined as having a free amine or lactam group.

72. (New) A pharmacologically active peptide conjugate having a reduced tendency towards enzymatic cleavage comprising X and a first sequence (Z)and a second sequence (Z),

wherein X is a pharmacologically active heteropolymeric peptide sequence, and

wherein the first sequence (Z) and the second sequence (Z) are each a stabilising peptide sequence of 4-20 amino acid units in which the first sequence (Z) is covalently bonded to the N terminal end of X and the second sequence (Z) is covalently bonded to the C terminal end of X,

wherein each amino acid unit in the first and second peptide sequence (Z) are independently selected from the group consisting of Ala, Leu, Ser, Thr, Tyr, Asn, Gln, Asp, Glu, Lys, Arg, His, Met, Orn, and amino acid units of the general formula I

$$-NH-C(R^1)(R^2)-C(=O)- \qquad (I)$$

wherein R^1 and R^2 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, phenyl, and phenyl-methyl, wherein C_{1-6}-alkyl is optionally substituted with from one to three substituents selected from halogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, nitro, sulfono, and carboxy, and phenyl and phenyl-methyl is optionally substituted with from one to three substituents selected from C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, nitro, sulfono, and carboxy, or R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, or cycloheptyl ring; and

wherein the ratio between the half-life of said peptide conjugate and the half-life of the corresponding pharmacologically active peptide sequence X, when treated with carboxypeptidase A or leucine aminopeptidase in about 50 mM phosphate buffer solution at about pH 7.4 at about 37°C or in serum or plasma is at least about 2; or a salt thereof, wherein each of the first sequence (Z) and the second sequence (Z) comprises at least two identical amino acid units.

REMARKS

As an initial matter, please change the attorney docket number in this case from "PPT-20479-US" to --55508/45487--.

Claims 1, 24, 29, 52, 54, 57, 62, 64 and 68 have been amended and new claims 69-72 added. Claims 3, 4, 5 and 37 have been canceled without prejudice. The right to file subsequent applications encompassing the canceled subject matter is reserved.